

U.S. Department of Energy  
Workshop for Industrial Hygiene  
Orlando, Florida  
May 24, 2000

Summary

The Department held a Workshop for Industrial Hygiene on May 24, 2000 in Orlando Florida. The Workshop addressed several issues and initiatives of current interest to the Department and was attended by industrial hygienists representing DOE's contractors, Operations and Field Offices, and Headquarters Program Offices.

The Office of Environment, Safety and Health (EH) described DOE's Chemical (Safety) Management Initiative. The presenter emphasized that this initiative is led by DOE's field elements and is supported by EH. He provided the background and scope of the initiative, and the status of the draft Chemical Safety Management Handbook.

The Richland Operations Office described conducting a Management Systems Verification (a process developed by the Chemical Manufacturers Association) of the Hanford Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) in advance of PFP's Integrated Safety Management System Verification (ISMSV). The presenter indicated that this exercise allowed the PFP to make improvements that helped PFP succeed with their ISMSV.

EH provided the status of implementation of 10 CFR 850, Chronic Beryllium Disease Prevention Program (CBDPP). The presenter described beryllium rule implementation workshops and the status of the CBDPP plans that have been submitted to DOE as required by the rule.

DOE's Industrial Hygiene Coordinating Committee provided a status report on its activities and presented this year's DOE Industrial Hygiene Award to Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's Richard E. Johanson for his technical accomplishments in the field of industrial hygiene.

The Los Alamos National Laboratory and DOE's Savannah River Operations Office presented the status of DOE's Air Suit Testing Program requirements and recent changes in re-test cycle time and funding mechanisms for the testing. Richland Operations Office described the final changes to the recently published DOE Order covering respirators for security forces personnel.

The Ohio Field Office presented the results of air monitoring for ammonia and amines performed during uranium soil washing at its Ashtabula project. For the most exposed population, all personal samples were well under the Permissible Exposure Level. All personal samples were also under the Threshold Limit Values (TLV), although some area samples did exceed the TLV.

The new National Nuclear Security Administration described the structure of its organization and the current status of determining where its industrial hygiene responsibilities will be located.

The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory presented an overview of the standards and practices for testing High Efficiency Particulate Aerosol (HEPA) filters. These filters primarily are used for radiological hazards but also often are used for chemical hazards of interest to industrial hygienists. The presenter emphasized that HEPA filters must be regularly maintained to ensure that the filters continue to effectively perform.

The Workshop concluded with the participants proposing of the following topics for next year's workshop: Lessons Learned; Occurrence Reporting and Processing System (ORPS); new health and safety requirements; common problems that suggest collective efforts to resolve; summary of the current environment, safety and health evaluations of DOE's gaseous diffusion plants; examples of how ISMS is making industrial hygiene easier to implement and more effective; approaches to enhance the visibility of industrial hygiene's contribution to DOE's mission; implementation of Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration's anticipated new ergonomics rule; summary of beryllium exposure data; summary of industrial hygiene related activities of local safety and health committees; and the new American National Standards Institute's protective glove standard.